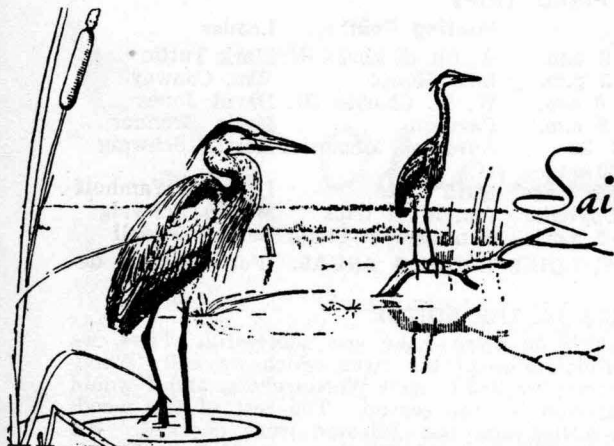




Saint Louis Audubon

BULLETIN

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January 1953

KARL MASLOWSKI TO PRESENT "EARTHQUAKE LAKE"

Film-Lecture in Color

Karl Maslowski is an engaging personality, dramatic showman, ace photographer, and a keen naturalist—a happy combination which has put him in the top brackets of the lecture field. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, but moved North before he was a year old. Since then he has continued to travel, and has spent much time and effort taking colored motion pictures.

The beautiful film, *Earthquake Lake*, tells in color motion pictures the complete story of the fascinating wilderness area, Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee. In the wild countryside of western Tennessee, a series of earthquakes in 1811 and 1812 formed a great chasm two miles wide and 12 miles long into which the waters of the Mississippi rushed to form the lake. This was in Audubon's time, and the great artist-naturalist, living then in Louisville, Kentucky, spoke of riding through one of these 'quakes and fearing he would not survive.

Today, the borders of Reelfoot Lake are covered with great swamp forests in which Comorants, Water Turkeys, Herons and Egrets build their nests. This brilliant color film shows these birds in their nesting colony, "Cranetown"; a Spade Foot Toad that digs itself a hiding place in a mudbank in less than a minute; the southern swamp rabbit that is at home in water; a bird-voiced tree frog; a turtle laying its eggs; a night hunt for bullfrogs and flying squirrels; and the incredible three-toed Congo Eel, our largest salamander, which looks like an eel, reaching a length of 40 inches.

Mr. Maslowski has worked with the Ohio Division of Conservation as Photographer-Naturalist; and with the University of Cincinnati as Lecturer in Nature Study. At the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History he served as Curator of Birds. Writer of a weekly nature column in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, he has also published numerous illustrated articles on natural science in *Natural History*, *Outdoor Life*, *Nature* and *Child Life*. Thus Karl Maslowski has won fame as a naturalist, writer and photographer of the first rank.

MONDAY
JANUARY 19
8:15 p.m.

DON'T MISS IT!
Even if you have not yet mailed in your dues, be sure to attend. Miss Mildred Reese, Membership Chairman, will be present in the lobby.

THIRD BAPTIST
CHURCH
GRAND AND
WASHINGTON

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips	Date - Time	Meeting Point	Leader
Chain of Rocks	Sun. Jan. 18, 8 a.m.	W. Ch. of Rocks Br.	Mark Tuttle
St. Louis Zoo	Sat. Feb. 14, 2 p.m.	Bird House	Wm. Conway
Dardenne Marsh	Sun. Mar. 15, 8 a.m.	W. St. Charles Br.	David Jones
Gray Summit	Sun. Mar. 29, 8 a.m.	Pavilion	Louis Brenner
Forest Park	Sun. Apr. 19, 26 May 3, 10, 7:30 a.m.	Jefferson Memorial	Martin Schweig
Shaw's Garden	Sat. April 18, 25, 8 a.m.	Main Gate	L. & C. Wamhoff
Spring Census	Sun. May 3, Daylight	Individual trips	Martin Schweig
Creve Coeur Lake	Sun. May 17, 7 a.m.	Refreshment Stand	Beulah Bedell

For directions, see **GUIDE TO ST. LOUIS BIRDING AREAS.** For complete details, call Leader.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The November 30 Field Trip to Swan Lake was successful. First, we went to a wooded area on the Illinois side of the river which we call "Woodpecker Woods". It is a winter resort for Red-headed Woodpeckers, and I would estimate that at least 300 have arrived for the season. The rest of the woodpecker tribe, Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied and one Pileated were checked. We found a considerable number of Golden Crowned Kinglets. A Hermit Thrush scratched in the leaves in the path which our group made through the snow.

We spent the afternoon across the Illinois River at Swan Lake. In the twenty-acre field adjacent to the lake, ducks were feeding in very large numbers. We watched large flocks come over at great heights, spot the corn field and drop in at such speeds that the rush of air through their wing feathers sounded like a sudden heavy gust through pine trees. We checked for species, and estimated 5% Pintails, 2% Black Ducks, and 93% Mallards. I believe there were eight to ten thousand in the field, and more streaming in continually.

Through the kind co-operation of Mr. Davis, Federal Game Warden, we were permitted to go into the Reservation Area. The concentration was very heavy. We concealed ourselves in brush and observed the Blue and the Snow Geese. Across the lake on the opposite shore we noted another large group of Snow Geese. Ducks, mostly Mallards, lined the shore in tremendous quantities. The shore seemed black, and by sectionally dividing, we estimated 50 to 60 thousand.

O. C. K. Hutchinson

Dear Mr. Conyers:

May hungry little birds appeal to you? Mr. and Mrs. Thontas Tit and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Chick and kindred, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Downey, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hairy, Mr. and Mrs. Robin Red-belly, Nathaniel Nuthatch, Bobby Brown Creeper, Messrs. and Mesdames Jerry Jay, Cornelius Cardinal, Carolus Wren, and Quentin Quail (with all the little Quails) urge you to send at once to the above address:

10 pounds of Cardinal sunflower seed

5 pounds of "Keep 'em Coming"

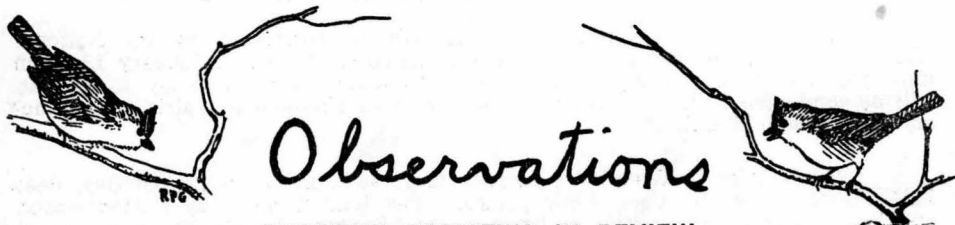
Whereupon the dutiful wife of the undersigned, their ex-officio secretary, will remit by check upon receipt of bill. Immediately upon receipt of the seed, a paeon of praise is pledged. Mostly to the Conyers, but the Burkes may come in for scatterings.

Sincerely, in behalf of the above,

Harry R. Burke

When I get a letter from Mr. Burke, I know it is time to start feeding the winter birds. He and his wife are ardent bird enthusiasts and conservationists. Mr. Burke has for years been music and art critic for the Post-Dispatch and Globe Democrat.

Cardinal Brand Sunflower Seed	10 pounds	\$2.49
Wild Bird Mix	10 pounds	1.49
	50 pounds	6.25
	100 pounds	11.75



NINETEEN FIFTY-TWO IN REVIEW by James Earl Comfort

Because of the wise planning of our Secretary, Ernestine Magner, St. Louis Audubon Society members had the privilege of enjoying seven field trips in 1952. The walks, beginning in September, and covering various local regions, were led by Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, Mr. and Mrs. George Graff, Earl Comfort, Arthur Bennett, Julian Neill, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. K. Hutchinson and Jim Comfort.

Late fall and early winter birding resulted in the discovery of many unusual species. The number of migrants of the usually rare Harris' Sparrow was phenomenal, as are the high number of wintering White-crowned Sparrows and Siskins, the latter considered rare at any time. Wintering White-throated Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Purple Finches and Red-headed Woodpeckers were uncommon compared to other years.

Two western visitors were eagerly sought by many observers after an announcement of their presence in the popular August A. Busch Wildlife Management and Experimental Area near Weldon Springs in St. Charles County. Arthur Bennett discovered a male Vermilion Flycatcher there on November 11. Encouraged by this unusual find, Jim Comfort announced a Green-tailed Towhee at the refuge on November 23. Both birds were popular hosts to many successful observers as the accommodating visitors, far out of their normal range, remained over an extended period. Those attending the December 14 field trip had the pleasure of observing the Towhee.

A review of the 1952 records shows that no other year matched it for number of rarities, casuals and accidentals. As of December 21, 286 species had been reported by competent and reliable observers, several records had "gone out the window", and 6 species had been seen for the first time in modern bird watching.

A survey of active birders resulted in the following list being chosen as the top ten birds of the year: Vermilion Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, Red Phalarope, Black-necked Stilt, White-faced Glossy Ibis, Black Rail, Glaucous Gull, Wood Ibis, White-winged Crossbill and Knot. Other good 1952 finds were Western Grebe, Eared Grebe, White Pelican, White-fronted Goose, Old Squaw, White-winged Scoter, American Scoter, Harlan's Hawk, Goshawk, Florida Gallinule, Piping Plover, Turnstone, Willet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Avocet, Northern Phalarope, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Red-shafted Flicker, Kirtland's Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler, Sycamore Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, Spotted Towhee, Harris' Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Pine-woods Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red-poll, Gambel's Sparrow and Red Crossbill.

Dick Anderson's list of 265 species was the top individual record for 1952. There was a substantial number of persons with a year's list of 200 or more. The 1952 cumulative list includes 6 subspecies and 1 hybrid, the Brewster's Warbler. There were 11 species of the heron family, 23 ducks, 17 hawks, and allies, 33 shorebirds, 38 warblers and 39 finches. The 33 shorebirds set a record and the finch list tied the high count of any previous year. Ten species were seen in 1951 that did not appear on the 1952 list, while 22 kinds in 1952 failed to make the 1951 report. In 1950 the total St. Louis Area list was an amazing 291.

\$5	ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDING SCREEN TOURS	\$5
Reserved seat \$3 additional		

AUDUBON SOCIETY CONDUCTS FLORIDA WILDLIFE TOURS

Wildlife tours of tropical Florida will be conducted by the National Audubon Society for winter visitors to Fort Lauderdale. From January 13 when trips will run twice weekly to Everglades National Park. Two-day tours also will be conducted to Lake Okeechobee and the vast Kissimmee prairie from January 13 through March 28.

These trips to Everglades include stops at Anhinga trail, Coot Bay, Bear Lake, 'Gator Lake and Cape Sable prairie. The tour is made by station wagon and boat. Among the rarities to be seen are Limpkins, Purple Gallinules, regal White Pelicans, Egrets, Herons, Ibises and countless waterfowl and shore birds. The route to Everglades, which is 75 miles southwest of Fort Lauderdale, includes Cuthbert Lake and Key Largo. An overnight stop is made at Tavernier.

Many of the actors that perform so well at Everglades also are to be seen on the Okeechobee-Kissimmee tours, but the main interest is for rarer species. Nature lovers are greeted by Bald Eagles, Burrowing Owls and the Florida Crane, and see acres of subtropic orchids, air plants and iris. Tourists are lodged overnight at the Southland Hotel.

RECORD BREAKING FIELD TRIP

The St. Louis Audubon Society and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society were hosts to the National Association of Biology Teachers and the American Nature Study Society on Sunday, December 28. The field trip, made up of 134 members and visitors, in four busses, visited the Mississippi and Missouri flood plains and observed the rapid ecological adaptations to sudden habitat changes due to river action. A hot dinner of chicken and dumplings was served by church members at the Weldon Springs Lodge. Mr. Willard Barbee conducted the group over the Experimental Area. Roger Tory Peterson called attention to a Say's Phoebe, perhaps the first seen in the Area. Particularly active in our group were David Jones, Jim Comfort, Marshall Magner. Rex Conyers, John Wanamaker and Earl Comfort.



REMEMBER

\$1 ATTEND THE AUDUBON PICNICS \$1

Charles M. Rice Sanctuary, Antonio, Mo.

Sunday, April 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Joseph Desloge Estate, Vouisiers, Florissant

Sunday, May 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN VOL. 21, NO. 3 JAN. 1953

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Exec. Sec. Mrs. Marshall Magner
 516 Bacon Ave.

Webster Groves 19, Mo.
Telephone TU. 4-2092

Editor Rex Conyers

AUDUBON DINNER

Monday, Jan. 19, Third Baptist
Church to meet Members of Board
and our guest, Karl Maslowski.
6 p.m.

Make Reservations in advance

Send \$1.50 to

Mrs. Irma Rombauer

5712 Cabanne

St. Louis 12, Mo.